

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is for the purpose of claiming priority of copending U.S. application 09/302920 filed April 30, 1999. Said application is in the series of applications that include PCT application WO 99/26067 published May 27, 1999. This priority claim is made for the purpose of relying on the April 30, 1999 filing date to antedate said publication, removing it from the category of prior art, to the extent, if any, that it is relevant to the claims herein.

Such a priority claim was filed via an amendment, but the amendment was refused entry as raising new issues and requiring a further search. While Applicants do not understand why a further search would be required inasmuch as the original search should have located relevant prior art other than Watkins et al., should such art exist, Applicants have filed a Request for Continuing Examination in order to expedite prosecution of this Application.

Brief statements in Watkins et al., at pages 7 and 8, relating to thyroid stimulating hormone, were relied on by the Examiner in rejecting claims in this application as obvious over combinations of references in which Watkins et al. was cited as the primary reference. The same statements are made in application 09/302920, from which priority is now claimed.

As the Watkins et al. PCT application is no longer prior art, Applicants request withdrawal of such rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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